

May Monthly Progress Report

African Strategies for Health

June 15, 2013

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African Strategies for Health (ASH)

Monthly Progress Report: May 2013

1. Notable Achievements

- ASH submitted draft reports to AFR on the three study questions addressed by the Systematic Review of Evidence on Relationships between HIV and Maternal Mortality that was begun in May.
- ASH drafted a historical overview of USAID's contribution to TB control in Africa. This report will be inserted into a report that WHO/AFRO is preparing—recording TB control programming in Africa since the early 1980's.

2. Technical Updates

A. Maternal, Newborn and Child Health

Systematic Review of Evidence on Relationships between Maternal Mortality and HIV

ASH submitted draft reports to AFR on the three study questions addressed by the Systematic Review of Evidence on Relationships between HIV and Maternal Mortality that was begun in May. ASH, additionally, developed and submitted a draft synthesis report that summarizes the key findings of three reviews and discusses their interactions and implications for programming and service delivery for HIV-infected pregnant women. The findings of the reviews will be presented at the technical consultation on HIV and maternal health in Africa that will be held in Boston in June. A further dissemination plan is under discussion with AFR.

Malaria in Pregnancy

The ASH MNCH Specialist attended the annual meeting of Roll Back Malaria's Malaria in Pregnancy Working Group in Geneva. This meeting helped to identify a possible additional role for ASH in promoting roll out of the new WHO guidelines on IPTp and in ongoing collaboration with RBM's Effectiveness and Research Working Group. These ideas are under discussion with AFR and PMI.

A concept note for the IPTp assessment in Benin was drafted. Following inputs by the ASH Team the draft will be shared with a broader group of stakeholders including PMI and MSH staff in Benin.

Capacity Building to ECSA and East Africa Regional Health Professional Associations

ASH, together with AFR and the Global Health Bureau, is exploring involvement and contribution to the Survive and Thrive Global Development Alliance in the form of management and leadership capacity building to ECSA and East Africa Regional Health Professional Associations in collaboration with the S&T GDA capacity building working group. Discussions with the GDA partners are continuing and ASH will attend the in-person meeting of the GDA in June to further explore its involvement.

RMNH Gap Analyses

ASH and AFR continued discussions with the Alliance for RMNH about the possibility of working with RMNHA partners to conduct implementation assessments/gap analyses in Tanzania and Nigeria. In discussions with Sylvia Alford at the recent USAID Africa Regional SOTA, USAID health officers from Tanzania and Nigeria expressed interest in further exploring the idea as they think the exercise could provide useful information to advance the national agendas. Phone conversations are being scheduled with the Missions by AFR to confirm interest and make concrete plans.

B. Infectious Diseases

TB

ASH drafted a historical overview of USAID's contribution to TB control in Africa. This report will be inserted into a report that WHO/AFRO is preparing—recording TB control programming in Africa since the early 1980's.

WHO/AFRO has requested a stakeholder meeting during July 2013 to review and finalize a draft framework for pediatric TB. ASH, with USAID/AFR and USAID's Global Bureau, collaborated in pre-planning for the meeting. The Brazzaville meeting is intended to kick start a process aimed at strengthening TB control activities in Africa and is the culmination of a series of discussions that were initiated about 16 months ago.

IDSR

ASH, in collaboration with CDC, pulled together a concept note for the AFENET Conference that is scheduled to take place during November 2013 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The concept note describes the purpose, objectives and design for a pre-conference session that will focus on IDSR. This concept note will be discussed with WHO AFRO in the near future. ASH's Communication Advisor completed a document outlining an approach for a stakeholder mapping as part of the larger process of developing a communication strategy for IDSR.

Malaria

Preparation continued for the implementation of two malaria-related consultancies. Negotiations were completed with two consultants for the assessment of RBM sub-regional networks. The activity is scheduled to commence during June. A search for consultants for the IRS mid-term evaluation in Tanzania was initiated. At the end of May 17 persons had submitted CV's for the activity.

C. Health Systems Strengthening

AGOA

The ASH M&E Specialist researched and reviewed literature for the technical paper on making the case for "Health as a Driver of Sustained and Accelerated Trade and Investment". Led interviews with potential consultants for the development of the technical paper. This paper will be presented by Ministers of Finance and senior trade representatives at 2013 U.S.-Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum also known as the AGOA Forum, on August 12-13, 2013 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

mHealth

The M&E Specialist also participated in the May 28 mHealth Working Group Meeting on Mobile Money in Strengthening Health Systems, and worked with the mHealth consultant on the development of an infographic for ASH's mHealth Compendiums (Volume 1 & 2).

D. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

The M&E Specialist developed short and long-term outcomes for each of the 39 activities in the ASH workplan for Year 2, and participated in interviews, together with the ID Specialist for the assessment of RBM sub-regional networks.

During the May 22 COR meeting, the M&E Specialist provided an overview of the M&E Plan, highlighting the three Intermediate Results and challenges related to measuring long-term outputs. ASH has developed definitions for the indicators, targets, and methods for measuring progress. USAID/AFR and ASH discussed the possibility of a mid-term assessment as a way to evaluate progress and inform Year Three planning.

3. Management and Administration

A. Finance

Financial data for May, 2013 has not yet been closed by MSH Accounting. It is expected that the information will become available on or around June 18, 2013. Therefore, for the purpose of this report expenses for May, 2013 are based on estimates.

Total Obligation	=	\$6,783,004
Expenses		
Total expenditure and accruals as of April, 2013	=	\$4,020,942
Estimated expenses for May, 2013	=	\$ 280,000
Total estimated expenses as of March 31, 2013	=	\$4,300,942
Pipeline (1-2)	=	\$2,482,062

B. Project Management

During the May 22 COR meeting, it was agreed that the revised Year Two Workplan (shared May 6, 2012) is acceptable in its current form and requires a few minor adjustments before sign off. For year three, USAID/AFR and ASH will continue to think about how the format of the workplan may be improved to facilitate easier use and allow for the quick finding of information.

USAID/AFR and ASH agreed that a cross-team USAID/AFR – ASH Quarterly Meeting in June would be useful as an opportunity to reflect on the past year and think about activities and priorities for Year Three.

C. Project Communication and Dissemination

Website

The ACD Specialist drafted content for the ASH website, especially technical pages and bios. Once the site has been internally reviewed by ASH staff and revisions completed, it will be ready to be presented to USAID for their review and approval.

AGOA

A draft flyer and folder cover was completed and need to be finalized and forwarded to USAID for approval. Folders need to be then printed and shipped to Ethiopia in time for the meeting.

Elected Leaders paper

The ACD Specialist completed two drafts of the paper and now has comments to incorporate from her co-author. Final additions, such as the bibliography, table of contents, etc., need to be made to the draft before internal and USAID review. Gwen will continue to work on the paper and finalize it for USAID review by July 1.

D. Partnership Collaboration

ASH coordinated the visit to Washington DC of a four-person WAHO delegation composed of the Executive Director and three other key officials. The purpose of the visit was to discuss WAHO's overall collaboration with USAID, with a specific emphasis on HIS and IDSR. In addition to meeting with USAID and the World Bank, the WAHO delegation is holding meeting with MEASURE Evaluation, Columbia University, MSH, Capacity Plus and OGAC to discuss HIS and eHealth.

ASH also participated in a teleconference call discussion with USAID/East Africa and USAID/AFR/SD to discuss how ASH can work with USAID/EA mission. A number of activities were discussed in the areas of eHealth. The documentation of best practices, linkages between regional organizations, and the documentation of health care financing trends. Under the M&E Advisor's portfolio, USAID/EA will develop and share a draft scope of work for eHealth work to be undertaken by ASH in East Africa.

E. Other Updates

a. *Staffing*

The ASH Project as Communications and Advocacy Specialist's effective last day on ASH was May 17, 2013. ASH continues the recruitment of replacements for her position as well as the Technical Director and HSS Specialist position.

F. COR Meetings

One COR meeting took place on May 22, 2013

G. Potential Issues or Areas Needing USAID Support

No issues needing support.

4. Key Activities Planned for Next Month

- a. Organize the USAID/AFR – ASH Quarterly Meeting
- b. Finalize the hiring of teams of consultants for the IRS evaluation in Tanzania and the RBM SRN evaluation
- c. Continue to disseminate Volume II of ASH’s mHealth Compendium for the upcoming USAID/Global Health SOTA meeting in May
- d. Finalize website content after approval is received from USAID
- e. Begin the development of the technical paper for the AGOA forum
- f. Begin key informant interviews for the landscape analysis of key regional organizations in the African health sector, once USAID approval is received
- g. Continue the development of the ASH draft partnership strategy
- h. Meet with USAID AFR/SD to present and get feedback on the ASH PMP/M&E Plan

5. Attachments

- a. Updated list of COR Letters and Related Clearances